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The authors have included a chapter on wireless telegraphy in war, the greater part of which is devoted to a discussion of the action of the London *Times* correspondent in sending messages by this method. Curiously enough nothing is said of the action of the Russians while besieged at Port Arthur in communicating by wireless message with the Russian Consulate at the neutral port of Chefoo 75 miles distant, at which place a receiving station had been erected. The right of a neutral to permit the erection of a station within its territory for the receipt of messages for the use of a belligerent was thus for the first time raised in a war and should and probably will receive consideration from the forthcoming Hague Conference.

The chief criticism of the work under review is that it omits much that should be included and includes much that should be left out. There is an appendix of nearly one hundred pages although the rules of war issued by the two belligerents are not included. Nowhere is there any mention of the Hay note for the localization and limitation of the area of hostilities which was approved by all the great powers, including the belligerents themselves. There is a long chapter on international arbitration which contains an unsatisfactory review of the recent cases brought before the Hague Tribunal. This chapter might well have been omitted for there was no instance of arbitration during the war. The submission of the question of the Dogger Bank incident to an international commission of inquiry in pursuance of the Hague Convention was an important feature of the war but it was not a case of arbitration. There is also a hundred page chapter on the law of blockade although this branch of international law was not drawn in question during the war. Finally the work bears evidence of haste in preparation and carelessness of writing. Newspaper reports, chiefly dispatches to the London *Times*, are the main sources of information for the discussion of the international questions raised during the war. No treatise based on such sources can be regarded as final and authoritative.

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JAMES W. GARNER.

**Spargo, John.** *The Bitter Cry of the Children.* Pp. viii, 337. Price \$1.50. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1906.

"There have been many books written about the children of the poor, but, none of them gives us so impressive a statement as is contained here of the most important and powerful cause of poverty." This prefatory judgment of Robert Hunter will be passed on by every one who reads of underfed children as described by Mr. Spargo. The book will live and will set hundreds of teachers and social workers and philanthropists to work in villages and cities throughout the country.

Socialism has many aspects. We are accustomed to draw arbitrary lines between the socialism we approve,—public schools, hospitals, dispensaries, postal service and the socialism we abhor,—community ownership of means of production. When Mr. Spargo suggests compulsory free meals for school children, he is met with the cry of Socialism, which only calls forth a smile and a request for a substitute. Whatever our feeling as to the remedy for starved and half-starved children we are grateful for the vivid, scholarly way

in which this book marshals the experience of two continents in awaking to the physical needs of the children who are compelled to be in school though unfit for schooling.

As epidemics of cholera and plague and Paris fashions cross the ocean, so such agitations as that which elected labor leaders to Parliament on "School Meals" platforms will not spend themselves until we have taken up the problem in earnest. We must substitute systematic and thorough physical examination of school children for perfunctory "going over 2,000 in twenty minutes." When men like Dr. Cronin in New York have records of 40,000 children needing medical care, 25,000 seriously needing dental care, thousands rejected for tuberculosis, etc., we are going to demand that this information be used promptly for the benefit, not of science, but first of these children. If private philanthropy is unequal to the task of supplying shoes, clothing, home meals, eye-glasses, dental care, then, shall our cities pay the bills?

The experience of New York will probably be duplicated elsewhere as the American public is aroused to the condition of the children of the poor. The trustees of Bellevue and allied hospitals were recently asked by two charitable societies to establish dental clinics. The condition of 20,000 children was accepted, the experience of Strassburg and other foreign cities read, but the trustees did not believe they were justified in spending public funds for this purpose until every effort had been made to solve the problem in other ways, referring to family dentist and education of parents. So in American cities the chief immediate result of Mr. Spargo's graphic exposition of the needs of the American child of the poor and European methods of insuring a sound body, will probably be a series of investigations and experiments that will get together first-hand facts for each community regarding its own needs and its resources.

School teachers need this book, social workers, librarians, pastors, editors, all who want to understand the problem of poverty or education. It will help man find his brother even though man be an employer of child labor. It is not only readable, it contains illustrations and facts that are matters of record, absolutely proved. The appendices are valuable for their story of Europe's experience, even though this gives but the positive favorable testimony. Anyone wanting the other side may get it direct from Mr. Spargo or by writing the "*Manchester Guardian*." That Mr. Spargo presents the dominant need at present is evidenced by editorials in the London "*Times*," the "*Spectator*," etc., apparently accepting as proved the statement made in this book regarding Continental Europe. Where American facts are given the author states clearly the basis and the limitations. Such candor and such handling of data are rare, with chapter headings such as "The Blighting of the Babies"; "The School Child"; "The Working Child"; "Remedial Measures"; "Blossoms and Babies." Even though convinced that the remedy—school or communal meals, instead of better home conditions—is worse than the disease, malnutrition or undernutrition, the reader will be grateful for the presentation of the "Bitter Cry of the Children." Whether existing means will suffice is to be tested this next year in New York by a committee of the Association for Improving the Condition of

the Poor, known as Committee on Physical Welfare of School Children, which has a special fund for coöperating with the Department of Health and Department of Education in a thorough investigation of two neighborhoods, securing adequate relief of every description and exhausting present means of caring for children found to be needy.

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